

**From:** M  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 12/6/01 5:41pm  
**Subject:** Micro\$loth is a threat to the free market, why are you letting them off the hook & encouraging them further?

Micro\$loth is a threat to the free market, why are you not only letting them off the hook but even encouraging them to further expand their control?

- > The decision (which thankfully isn't final) - in which Microsoft will donate
- > \$1 billion worth of money, software, refurbished PCs, and training to poor
- > schools - is potentially a big blow to Apple. It gives Microsoft an inroad in
- > the education market, where Apple maintains a 50% market share.
- >
- > As Apple CEO Steve Jobs said regarding the decision, "We're baffled that a
- > settlement imposed against Microsoft for breaking the law should allow, even
- > encourage, them to unfairly make inroads into education - one of the few
- > markets left where they don't have monopoly power."

Gee, that's a stupid idea. They consistently abuse their monopolistic control to drive competitors from the marketplace over the last decade and their penance is to do it some more.

They seldom do anything to advance the technology or the marketplace. Windows started out as little more than an overgrown office suite and that's still how they treat it. Not as a platform for users, like the Mac for example, but purely as a tool to promote their products and services at everyone else's expense. Why isn't Microsoft required to compete on the basis of \_value\_ with a \_level playing field\_ like every one else?

- > And what's this about giving away refurbished computers? Are those old junkers
- > Microsoft was going to toss into the recycling bin anyway?
- >...
- > No, if this is going to happen, Microsoft ought to be compelled to
- > give the best of the best to these schools: top-of-the-line equipment that
- > will last four or five years, not junk that's already obsolete.
- >
- > I'm also not sure where the justice guys came up with the \$1 billion figure.
- > What's that? That's not even one quarter's profits for Microsoft - remember
- > they've gotten as big as they have and made as much money as they have based
- > on illegal monopolistic practices. Even dumber, the company has five years to
- > pay out the billion!

What a sham!  
-Cary Reid McKeown

quoted material from a piece by Marc Zeedar posted  
at <http://www.macopinion.com/columns/tangible/01/12/06/index.html>

